

Message Text

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46

ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 EAE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01

DPW-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 OPR-02 ORM-02 L-03

H-02 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 USIE-00

PRS-01 PA-01 OC-06 CCO-00 VO-03 PPT-01 SY-05 AID-05

PM-04 OMB-01 /103 W

----- 073040

O R 091145Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 596

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

COMMANDER JCRC NAS, BARBERS POINT, HAWAII

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC PINT VS

SUBJECT: AMERICANS IN VIET-NAM

REF: A BANGKOK 19299, B STATE 169323

1. NO RPT NO AMERICANS NOR THEIR DEPENDENTS ARRIVED ON FRENCH EVACUATION FLIGHT FROM SAIGON JULY 9. PASSENGERS TOLD US THE AMERICAN GROUP HAD BEEN UNDERGOING OUTWARD PROCESSING WITH THEM FOR PAST SEVERAL DAYS. HOLD-UP WAS APPARENTLY OVER VIETNAMESE DEPENDENTS. AS ONE PERSON EXPLAINED, AMCITS HAD BOTH EXIT VISAS AND EXPULSION ORDERS, WHEREAS VIETNAMESE DEPENDENTS HAD ONLY THE FORMER, WHICH WERE NOT SUFFICIENT FOR DEPARTURE, SO ENTIRE GROUP WAS HELD BACK. WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS THE FULL STORY.

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2. EMBASSY WILL MEET PLANE AGAIN ON JULY 10. BASED UPON NUMEROUS CONVERSATIONS WITH PASSENGERS, WE ESTIMATE THERE IS 50-50 CHANCE THAT SOME OF THE AMERICAN GROUP MAY BE ON BOARD. TOMORROW'S PLANE IS LAST ONE PLANNED UNTIL JULY 23, DURING WHICH PERIOD THE CARAVELLE WILL BE IN HONG KONG FOR MAINTENANCE. AIR FRANCE OFFICIALS ARE OPTIMISTIC FLIGHTS WILL THEN CONTINUE THROUGH THE END OF AUGUST.

3. PASSENGERS ON BOARD TODAY'S RATHER FULL PLANE CONSISTED OF VIETNAMESE WITH FRENCH DOCUMENTATION AND THIRTY FOREIGN PRIESTS, ONE OF WHOM HAD BEEN IN VIET-NAM FOR FIFTY YEARS. THE CLERGY WERE ALL EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY. THEY BELIEVE THE EIGHT REMAINING EUROPEAN PRIESTS IN SAIGON WILL BE EXPELLED IMMINENTLY, MOST LIKELY TOMORROW.

4. ALL PERSONS WE QUERIED AGREED THAT SAIGON IS IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING A PROVINCIAL TOWN. BUREAUCRACY IS WORSE THAN EVER. ALMOST NO MEDICINES ARE AVAILABLE. SOME RELIGIOUS SEMINARIES REMAIN OPEN, ONE MAKING BICYCLE PARTS AS ITS OSTENSIBLE REASON FOR BEING AS WELL AS WAY TO SURVIVE; OTHERS HAVE BEEN CLOSED. PRIESTS AGREED THAT THERE IS NO OPEN RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION BUT THE FACT THAT A SOLDIER TAKES DOWN EVERY WORD SPOKEN DURING A CHURCH SERVICE IS VERY INTIMIDATING. THERE WERE COMMENTS THAT THE VINH SON CHURCH INCIDENT IN LATE FEBRUARY WAS FABRICATED BY THE AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO KEEP THE CHURCH IN LINE.

5. A DUTCH NUN WHO HAD BEEN IN DALAT AND HAD CONTACT AS LATE AS LAST WEEK WITH TWO VIETNAMESE NUNS STILL WORKING IN DALAT HOSPITAL SAID THEY REPORTED THAT THE CITY WAS IN A SORT OF STRAITJACKET. THERE WERE ABSOLUTELY NO MEDICINES AT THE HOSPITAL. THEY IMPLIED THAT MONTAGNARDS WERE CONTINUING TO RESIST IN THE AREA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO19579
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760265-0322
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760776/aaaacoqc.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DHA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICANS IN VIET-NAM
TAGS: CASC, PINT, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006